

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please AMEND claims 1-2, 4-5, 11-12, and 14 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A structural documentation system for converting plain text data into a structured document having a predetermined document structure, said system comprising:

a reading module that reads definition information defining a correlation between elements as basic units configuring the document structure, and defining, for each of the elements, a condition of a pattern of a character string ~~possibly contained in the~~ of plain text data as an extraction condition, and an identifier thereof;

a retrieving module that refers to the extraction condition per element that is defined by the definition information read by said reading module, and that extracts a region coincident with the per-element extraction condition referred to out of the processing target electronic document; and

a structured document generating module that combines the regions extracted with respect to the respective elements by said retrieving module in accordance with the correlation between the elements that is defined by the definition information, and that generates the structured document by adding to each region an identifier defined by the definition information,

wherein said correlation between the elements defined by the definition information takes a hierarchical structure in which one element in a higher-order hierarchy embraces a plurality of elements in a lower-order hierarchy.

said retrieving module extracts regions coincident with respective extraction conditions of the elements in the lower-order hierarchy out of a region extracted with reference to an extraction condition of the element in its higher-order hierarchy, and

said structured document generating module adds tags in front and rear of the region extracted by said retrieving module with respect to the element embracing no element in lower-

order hierarchy, and adds the tags for an element embracing elements in lower-order hierarchy in front and rear of a region formed by combining together the regions each extracted by said retrieving module with respect to all the elements in the lower-order hierarchy.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A structural documentation system according to claim 1 for converting plain text data into a structured document having a predetermined document structure, said system comprising:

a reading module that reads definition information defining a correlation between elements as basic units configuring the document structure, and defining, for each of the elements, a condition of a pattern of a character string of plain text data as an extraction condition, and an identifier thereof;

a retrieving module that refers to the extraction condition per element that is defined by the definition information read by said reading module, and that extracts a region coincident with the per-element extraction condition referred to out of the processing target electronic document;
and

a structured document generating module that combines the regions extracted with respect to the respective elements by said retrieving module in accordance with the correlation between the elements that is defined by the definition information, and that generates the structured document by adding to each region an identifier defined by the definition information,

wherein said structured document generating module adds tags as an identifier in front and rear of each region extracted by said retrieving module.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A structured documentation system according to claim 3 1, wherein said correlation between the elements shows a hierarchical structure in which said element in a higher-order hierarchy embraces an element in a lower-order hierarchy that has a repetitive structure,

said retrieving module repeatedly extracts regions coincident with the extraction condition of an element in the lower-order hierarchy having the repetitive structure out of the region extracted with reference to the extraction conditions of the element in its higher-order hierarchy until no region coincident with the extraction conditions of the element in the lower-order hierarchy can be extracted, and

said structured document generating module adds common tags in front and rear of

each of the regions extracted by said retrieving module with respect to the element in the lower-order hierarchy.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A structural documentation system according to claim 3 1, wherein said correlation between the elements shows a hierarchical structure in which one element in a higher-order hierarchy embraces a plurality of sequenced elements in a lower-order hierarchy and

said retrieving module extracts each region coincident with one of said extraction conditions of the elements in the lower-order hierarchy with reference to the extraction condition of the sequenced element in the lower-order hierarchy out of a region from a portion just after an already-extracted region coincident with another extraction condition of the element in lower-order hierarchy within the region extracted with reference to the extraction condition of the element in its higher order hierarchy.

6. (ORIGINAL) A structural documentation system according to claim 1, wherein the extraction condition of any one of the elements defined by the definition information is a description pattern of the whole region to be extracted.

7. (ORIGINAL) A structural documentation system according to claim 1, wherein the extraction condition of any one of the elements defined by the definition information is a description pattern of a start part of the region to be extracted and a description pattern of an end part thereof.

8. (ORIGINAL) A structural documentation system according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the description pattern is expressed by a character string in the region to be extracted.

9. (ORIGINAL) A structural documentation system according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the description pattern is expressed by a regular expression corresponding to the character string in the region to be extracted

10. (ORIGINAL) A structural documentation system according to claim 1, wherein the extraction condition of any one of the elements defined by the definition information is a syntax element of the region to be extracted.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage storing a program for controlling a computer to perform conversion, by:

reading plain text data;

reading definition information that defines a correlation between elements as basic units configuring a document structure of a structured document, and that defines, for each of the elements, a condition of a pattern of a character string ~~possibly contained in the~~ of plain text data as an extraction condition, and an identifier thereof;

referring to the extraction condition per element that is defined by the reading definition information;

extracting a region coincident with the per-element extraction condition referred to out of the processing target electronic document;

combining the regions extracted with respect to the respective elements in accordance with the correlation between the respective elements that is defined by the definition information; and

generating the structured document by adding to each region an identifier defined by the definition information.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of conversion, comprising:

reading plain text data;

reading definition information that defines a correlation between elements as basic units configuring a document structure of a structured document, and that defines, for each of the elements, a condition of a pattern of a character string ~~possibly contained in the~~ of plain text data as an extraction condition, and an identifier thereof;

referring to the extraction condition per element that is defined by the reading definition information;

extracting a region coincident with the per-element extraction condition referred to out of the processing target electronic document; and

combining the regions extracted with respect to the respective elements in accordance with the correlation between the respective elements that is defined by the definition information.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 12, further comprising generating the structured document by adding to each region an identifier defined by the definition information.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A structural documentation system for converting plain text data into a structured document having a predetermined document structure, said system comprising:

a reading module that reads definition information defining a correlation between elements as basic units configuring the document structure, and defining, for each of the elements, a condition of a pattern of a character string ~~possibly contained in the~~ of the plain text data as an extraction condition, and an identifier thereof; and

a retrieving module that refers to the extraction condition per element that is defined by the definition information read by said reading module, and that extracts a region coincident with the per-element extraction condition referred to out of the processing target electronic document.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The structural documentation system according to claim 14, further comprising a structured document generating module that combines the regions extracted with respect to the respective elements by said retrieving module in accordance with the correlation between the elements that is defined by the definition information.